

OKLAHOMA CITY DAILY OKLAHOMAN (OK)
25 March 1985

FILE ONLY

U.S. Nearing War, Ex-Spy Says

By Beth Powell

NORMAN — A former CIA agent said U.S. officials have prepared for the next war through a series of Supreme Court rulings and laws that would severely limit Americans' freedom.

John Stockwell, who

worked 13 years for the CIA, spoke Thursday as a part of Central America Week to a crowd of about 200 at the University of Oklahoma.

~~He also said~~ a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua seems imminent.

Stockwell said he foresaw the U.S. invasion of Grenada, and he said, the signs now are even stronger U.S. troops will enter Nicaragua soon.

Soldiers are being prepared for the invasion through military exercises in neighbor-

ing Honduras, where the United States has 12 military bases, he said.

Also, he said, Reagan talks about Nicaragua at every opportunity, pushing for aid to the Contras, who are trying to over throw the ruling Sandinistas.

"I will be very much surprised if Reagan leaves office with the Sandinistas in power," he said. Reagan is waiting for the Sandinistas to provide a trigger for an invasion, he said.

American public opinion is the only thing that has stopped a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua, he said.

"What will spare Nicaragua the horror of an invasion and will spare our youth from going and killing people will be public outcry," he said.

Stockwell described how the CIA destabilizes countries through torture and how it manipulates the public and the press.

"I never once saw these people, my seniors, sit around on the National Security Coun-

cil and say 'Let's tell the truth on this one,' " Stockwell said.

They only try to think of what they can say to make the American public hate and fear communism, he said.

A set of laws that have been quietly accumulated would take away Americans' rights during a war, he said.

Court rulings have given the government the right to censor book manuscripts before publication and to punish government employees for writing unauthorized books, Stockwell said.

The courts have also given the government the right to take away Americans' passports during a war without a hearing.

Stockwell said it is also a felony to publish the names of CIA agents or to reveal their function in a way that would draw attention to them.

And, he said, a law has been proposed to allow the secretary of state to create a list of terrorist and terrorist organizations.